

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4748

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: UNHCR STUDY GROUP VISIT TO CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 4737

1. YOU WILL DOUBTLESSLY BE CONSIDERING WHAT ADVICE TO GIVE CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVES WHO WILL PROBABLY BE MEETING YOU TODAY FOR DISCUSSION OF THE POSITION IN WHICH THEIR GOVERNMENT'S ABRUPT INTERRUPTION OF THE IMPENDING UNHCR STUDY GROUP VISIT LEAVES THEM. FOLLOWING THOUGHTS MAY BE HELPFUL:

2. AS FONMIN CARVAJAL OUTLINED THEM TO US JULY 7, TWO FACTORS UNDERLIE GOC DECISION: FIRST, THAT GROUP'S INTERVIEWS WITH ANTI-JUNTA CHILEANS HAVE IRRETRIEVABLY IMPAIRED ITS OBJECTIVITY; SECOND, THAT ANTI-JUNTA FORCES WILL STAGE "DISAPPEARANCES" OF REGIME OPPONENTS, COLLECTIVE ENTRY INTO EMBASSIES FOR "ASYLUM", OR OTHER SIMILAR EVENTS WHEN GROUP ARRIVES. IN THE PUBLIC CHORUS OF ANTI-COMMUNIST COMPLAINTS AND REPROACHES, THESE ARGUMENTS HAVE COME TO HAVE A CERTAIN FORCE AMONG THE CHILEAN PUBLIC.

3. CLEARLY, HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT WASH EXTERNALLY. CHILEANS SHOULD BE TOLD THAT NO STUDY GROUP WORTH ITS SALT COULD LOGICALLY PROCEED WITHOUT OBTAINING TESTIMONY FROM REGIME'S OPPONENTS AS WELL AS ITS AUTHORITIES. WE REGARD STUDY GROUP
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MEMBERS AS PERSONS OF SUFFICIENT STATURE TO LOOK AT CHILEAN

PROBLEMS IN FULL PERSPECTIVE, HEARING BOTH SIDES AND MAKING
BEST JUDGMENT AS TO WHERE FACTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES LIE.

4. AS TO SECOND POINT, JUNTA OPPONENTS MAY VERY WELL STAGE
SOME TYPE OF DEMONSTRATION BUT GOVERNMENT, WHICH CONTROLS
SECURITY APPARATUS, HAS MANY MEANS OF EXPOSING AND COUNTER-
ACTING SUCH MOVES, AND FULL FREEDOM TO DEMONSTRATE IN VARIOUS
WAYS DEGREE OF SUPPORT IT ENJOYS IN THE COUNTRY, IF IT WISHES.

5. GIVEN THE POSSIBILITY OF RESCHEDULING THE STUDY GROUP
VISIT UNDER THE LATEST FORMULA, WE WOULD HOPE CHILEAN UN REP
ADMIRAL HUERTA COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO WORK OUT WITH UN
SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS A FORMULA UNDER WHICH BOTH STUDY GROUP
MEMBERS AND CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PLEDGE THEIR BEST
EFFORTS TO MAKE STUDY GROUP REPORT AS OBJECTIVE AND THOROUGH
AS POSSIBLE. IF STUDY GROUP WOULD ACCEPT A FUDGY STATEMENT
ALONG THESE LINES, IT COULD BE PLAYED WITHIN CHILE AS A
PINOCHET VICTORY AND STUDY GROUP MIGHT AFTER DECENT DELAY
RESUME ITS JOURNEY TO SANTIAGO.

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